

### Application:

The Holy Spirit leads us to God but Satan attacks us with his lies. One lie of the devil is saying that all religions are good and they all lead us to heaven. We know that is a lie (see John 14:6).

Another lie has to do with the unconditional love of God. There are Christians who believe and teach that once you are saved you are always saved, no matter what happens or what you do. They will, for example, quote Romans 8: 38-39 and overstretch it.

While it is true that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus; and that God loves us unconditionally, (Romans 5:8); and that the love of God will continue to be unconditional all the time, even if you decide to join another religion - but are you still saved? In the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15), the father loves his lost son, and he patiently waits for the son to return. But the father's love cannot help and save the lost son who was hungry and looking after pigs in a foreign land. The lost son has to return to the Father before the relationship is restored. So if you decide to leave Jesus and refuse to come back to Him, will you continue to be covered by His love? (Read John 14: 21 carefully). The verse tells us that if we have no relationship with Jesus we shall no longer experience the love of the Father through Jesus.

The Commandments of Jesus are not simply moral precepts or ethical instructions; they involve a whole way of life, in how we relate to Him. It is about allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives so that the love of God continues to be experienced in our lives. So as we faithfully keep Jesus' commandments, we shall continue to experience His love.

### Conclusion:

The lesson reminds us that the church is a community of love because we are the Body of Christ. When the Church exercises love, it gives the church great power of influence in this world. We cannot argue the non-believing world into faith, but it is often possible to love the world into faith.

Remember also that Church's work is not our work, but God's work and we are called to participate in His work. That is why Church's work can only be done with the help of Holy Spirit. This is what our vision, mission and theme is all about: when we talk about obeying the call of God, it is in fact, obedience to the commandment to exercise our love in corporation with the Holy Spirit of God.

### Introduction:

This text that we are reading this morning is part of the discourse at the Last Supper (see chapter 13), which represents Jesus' attempt to prepare the disciples for what is coming. He begins by emphasizing belief (14:1-14) and then shifts to an emphasis on love (14:15-24). Our belief and our love is expressed in our obedience to his commandments.

The three Commandments of Jesus are found in John 13: 13-15; and John 14:1. These commandments to love (13:34-35) and to believe (14:1), (unlike the Torah law) are open-ended, and they are hard to obey. That is why Jesus promises to give us the Holy Spirit to help us to be obedient to his Commandments (John 14: 16).

### The Person of the Holy Spirit and His Work:

Spirit (Gk. Pneuma) - the same Spirit who descended like a dove on Jesus at his baptism (John 1:32). In John 14 the Spirit is referred to as Parakletos, and is translated into English as Advocate, Counselor, Comforter, and Intercessor. Some English Bibles use the word Paraclete (transliteration of the Greek word).

In relation to Jesus' disciples, the Paraclete will be with them forever (14:16f.). The Holy Spirit will teach and remind (14:26), abide (14:16), and testify about Jesus (15:26). The Holy Spirit deals in truth and will guide the believers into all the truth. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus by speaking what He hears from the Father. He will even predict things to come (16:13-15).

In relation to the world, the Paraclete will act as God's advocate, to *convict* the world of sin and *prove it wrong* in its standards of justice and judgment (John 16:8-11).

Jesus also refers to the Holy Spirit as "another *Parakletos*," implying that He is also a *Parakletos* (Advocate, Counselor, Comforter, and Intercessor). The *Parakletos* (v.17) is also the Spirit of truth (see John 14:6).

### Responses to the Holy Spirit

While the believers receive the Holy Spirit, the world rejects Him. It cannot accept Him because it neither sees him nor knows him, (see also John 1:10). It is because the world loves darkness (John 3:19, and follows the devil (John 8:44). When the world chooses to follow the devil the result is their failure to see Jesus. That explains why after the resurrection, it was only those who loved and believed in Jesus who saw him. And so it remains until today: the world that opposes God and prefers darkness cannot see Christ.